

Poison Control Policy

Storage and use of hazardous materials

Reason this policy is important: Children are naturally curious and are unaware about what substances may be harmful to their health. Adult caregivers are responsible for safeguarding children from harmful items including medications, plants, chemicals, and animal waste.

Procedure and Practices, including responsible person(s):

- Poisonous plants will not be permitted in the childcare program. Staff must identify plants and determine “safe” prior to bringing to the facility. (see poison plant list) If the plant is not on the poisonous plant list, please contact the poison control center (1-800-222-1222) for guidance.
- Outdoor plants will be labeled and whenever possible removed if poisonous.
- The Poison Control Center phone number will be posted on the list of emergency numbers by the telephone. Poison emergencies or requests for poison information will be made by contacting the Poison Control Center Hotline at 1-800-222-1222 first – unless the person who has been poisoned is unconscious, not breathing, having trouble breathing or is having convulsions. If any of these conditions are present, CALL 9-1-1 FIRST.
- Chemicals, medications, pesticides, paints, cleaning agents and other potentially harmful substances will be stored in locked areas that are inaccessible to children.
- Toxic substances will be stored away from food and food preparation areas.
- All chemical products and medications shall be stored in their original containers with original labels intact.
- Kitchen staff will be trained in and follow Integrated Pest Management practices for prevention of pests.
- If additional pest control is necessary, only a licensed exterminator will apply pesticides. Pesticides must be EPA approved with natural pesticides that are non-toxic to humans given first consideration.
- Pesticides and other potentially toxic chemicals will not be applied while children are present. Application shall be in a manner that prevents skin contact and other exposure and minimizes odors. A staff member will observe the application of the chemicals and verify that they are applied according to instructions on the label or otherwise directed by a regulatory authority.
- _____ (staff title/name) will notify parents and staff before using pesticides and/or herbicides.
- Following use of pesticides, herbicides or other potentially toxic chemicals the treated area shall be ventilated for the period recommended on the product label, the State Chemist Office, or by a nationally certified poison control center before being reoccupied.
- Children will not have access to animal waste. Staff will do all cleanup of animal waste after hours.
- All staff purses and personal belongings will be securely stored to prevent access by children. Purses and other personal belongings may contain items unsafe for children including medications, lighters, pocketknives, and etcetera.
- Sanitizing solutions will be mixed fresh daily prior to arrival of children. Sanitizers will be in a marked spray bottle available for staff use, out of reach of children.
- Syrup of Ipecac will not be kept on premises.

When the policy applies:

This policy is applicable at all times.

Communication plan for staff and parents:

- _____ will cover policies, plans, and procedures with all new staff (paid and volunteer) during orientation training. They will sign that they have read, understand, and agree to abide by the content of the policies.
- During enrollment this policy will be reviewed by _____ with the parents. Parents will sign that they have read, understand, and agree to abide by the content of the policies.
- A copy of all policies will be available during all hours of operation to staff and parents in the policy handbook located _____.
- Parents may receive a copy of the policy at anytime upon request. A summary of this policy will be included in the parent handbook.
- Parents and staff will receive written notification of any updates.

References:

- Poison Control: 800-222-1222 www.clarian.org/poisoncontrol
- Indiana Department of Environmental Management: www.in.gov/idem or 888-233-7745
- *Caring for Our Children* – <http://nrc.uchsc.edu>
- *Model Child Care Health Policies* – <http://www.ecels-healthychildcarepa.org>

Reviewed by: _____ Director/Owner

_____ Health Professional (physician, nurse, health department, EMS, Health consultant)

_____ Staff member

_____ Other (parent, advisory committee, police, CPS)

Effective Date and Review Date:

This policy is effective ____/____/____ and will be reviewed annually by ____/____/____ or sooner if needed. Parents and staff will be notified of any upcoming policy review.

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